

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4951

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH/INTAF

UNCLAS ANKARA 7226

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TU

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL ON US-GOT DEFENSE COOPERATION

PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S PREPARED STATEMENT AT HIS
SEPTEMBER 18 PRESS CONFERENCE CONTAINED INTER ALIA THE
FOLLOWING PORTION ON DELAY IN RATIFICATION OF THE DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT:

"I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON THE DEFENSE COOPERATION
RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES."

"AS IS KNOWN, THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

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SIGNED IN WASHINGTON ON 26 MARCH 1976 BY THE FOREIGN

MINISTERS OF TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES WAS CONCLUDED WITH THE END IN VIEW OF BASING ON SOUND, STABLE AND RELIABLE PRINCIPLES--IN THE LIGHT OF PAST EXPERIENCE--OUR RELATIONS WHICH WERE GOING THROUGH A SERIOUS CRISIS BECAUSE OF THE EMBARGO DECISION OF CONGRESS, AND INTRODUCING A NEW LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO OUR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE."

"THE RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION RELATIONS WITHIN THE FORM AND PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE AGREEMENT DEPENDS ON BOTH COUNTRIES' PARLIAMENTS' GIVING FORCE TO THE AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES TO ACT SWIFTLY ON THIS MATTER, BECAUSE THE DELAY IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT WILL CREATE AN UNAVOIDABLE EROSION IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. I DO NOT FEEL IT IS NECESSARY TO POINT OUT THE SERIOUS SETBACKS OF CAUSING FRESH EROSIONS AND TREMORS IN OUR RELATIONS. FROM HER OWN ANGLE, TURKEY IS SINCERELY STRIVING TO PREVENT THE EMERGENCE OF SUCH A SITUATION. WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS STRIVING TO PLACE THIS COOPERATION ON ITS NORMAL COURSE QUICKLY. WE WANT CONGRESS TO ACT WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AND RAPIDLY IN A WAY TO ASSIST THESE EFFORTS. THE FACT THAT THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE BEGAN PRELIMINARY WORK ON THE AGREEMENT ON 15 SEPTEMBER CONSTITUTES THE FIRST MOVE BY CONGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION. WE WANT THESE DEBATES, WHICH HAVE ALREADY STARTED, TO BE COMPLETED QUICKLY WITHOUT ANY INTERVALS AND POSTPONEMENTS IN A WAY TO LEAVE NO ROOM FOR THE FATE OF THE COOPERATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO BE PUSHED INTO UNCERTAINTY."

"I WOULD LIKE TO STATE HERE THAT A \$250 MILLION DEFENSE PURCHASE LOAN HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO TURKEY WITHIN THE 1976 AND 1977 AID ACTS, AT \$125 MILLION A YEAR."
FRANCIS

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